

Renewal of expired licenses without examination

HB 1862 by Saunders (Armbrister)

DIGEST:	HB 1862 would have required state licensing agencies to renew certain expired licenses when the individual has met renewal requirements and paid the required renewal fee. An individual could not have been required to pass an examination to renew the license.
GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:	<p>"This bill would prohibit any requirement that an individual pass an examination to renew a license to practice a business, occupation, or profession. It would also allow a person to renew an expired license without an examination if it had been expired for less than two years.</p> <p>"This bill was originally intended to change licensing renewal requirements for two licensing agencies. It is now so broad that it changes requirements for most professional licensing acts. These laws and regulations have been adopted by the Texas Legislature or by the licensing boards after much careful examination and study. The sweeping range of the changes in this bill were neither debated by the Legislature nor recommended by the Sunset Commission for the numerous licensing acts renewed by the 73rd Legislature."</p>
RESPONSE:	<p>Rep. Robert Saunders, the author of HB 1862, said he was "not sure what the governor was referring to when she spoke about the two agencies." He had used problems encountered by two individuals licensed by two different agencies as examples of what can happen when delays in notifying licensees can result in missed deadlines and expired licenses. "The intent of the bill was not to allow someone who wasn't qualified to renew a license, but for qualified people who miss a renewal deadline to be relicensed so they don't have to go back to step one. The bill only speaks to those licenses that had expired, not to those revoked or suspended. All licensing requirements would still have to be met." Rep. Saunders was unaware of any professionals who have to take a test for license renewals. "For licenses that have been expired for more than two years, the state agency would have the discretion to judge whether or not the individual was still qualified for a license."</p>
NOTES:	HB 1862 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in the <i>Daily Floor Report</i> .